

Feb. 2009

Sapricot #7

Louise Brooks

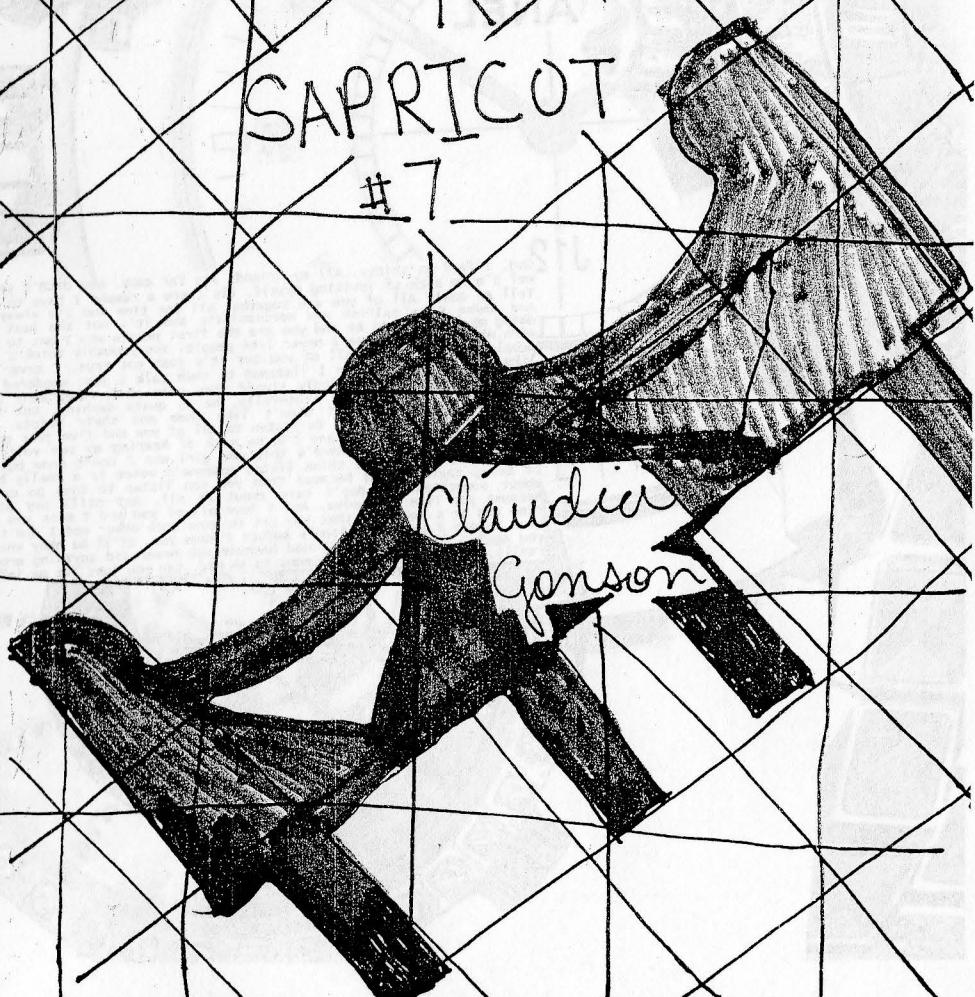
the Pains

85
15
85

SAPRICOT

#7

Claudia
Gonson



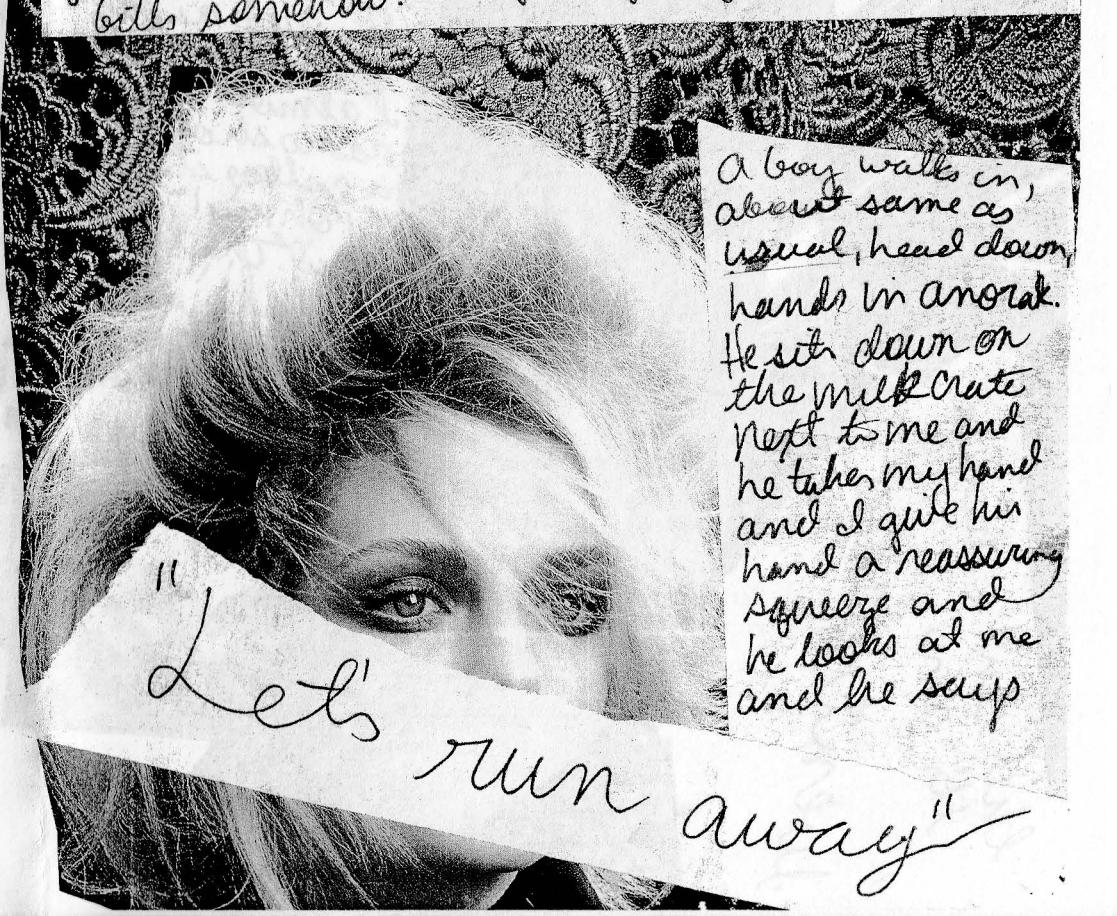
J12

8

God. I feel so shitty. All my friends are far away. Why didn't I invite me now!) All of you are together all the time and I'm always alone. And maybe I am selfish and narcissistic and it's not the best but I'm doing my best not to be and you are the first people who I get to hang out with who I love because I never like people. You probably think I like all people because I like all of you but it's just not true. I never used to like my friends and when I listened to them talk I just wondered if they realized how flabbergastingly stupid they were while they went on about how Johnny Depp is, and truthfully, he is quite dashing, but I didn't want to like them so I didn't like them and their voices gave me headaches, but now I want to listen to all of you and I've just got a bad habit of always talking and I'm so sick of hearing my own voice, but I love all your voices. There's this one girl who I don't know but I like her voice a lot, and I think liking someone's voice is a really big part of being their friend because then you can listen to them go on and on about something you don't care about at all but still pay attention because you like the noise. And I love all of you and I miss you all the time and it's not fair that you get to know each other and I don't get to know anyone I was never lonely before I knew you. It'll be okay when I see you again. I can never stay mad because you never did anything wrong, not really, and besides, I don't want to be mad. Can you just let me in?



I find myself alone and forlorn in the stocking room of a high-class record store. It's better than the last place I worked. I'm out of money and I was forced to sell all my LPs, because I have no place to stay and they don't fit in my messenger bag. Destitute and out of luck, I'm forced to work in the back of record stores, holding hands with shy indie boys for money. I don't really mind it. They come back there, hold my hand for 15 minutes, and then leave, still under the impression that I'm devastatingly cool. I like it better than real hand holding, even, because these boys never are disappointed in me (I am really good at hand holding), as people do when they talk to me more than once a week and I don't have to pay for it. It just feels a little sad to be reduced to this. I guess you gotta pay the bills somehow.



"Let's run away"

A boy walks in, about same as usual, head down, hands in a moak. He sits down on the milk crate next to me and he takes my hand and I give him hand a reassuring squeeze and he looks at me and he says

"You just mean stay the night"
I say. He says "Let's go" and smiles
to indicate he got my reference.
He knows I wouldn't go if he
didn't, and anyway, he wouldn't take
me. He gets up and pulls me with him
and I go, because I have nowhere else to
go. You can't get much lower than holding hands
for money, except maybe selling lemonade.

We ran
out of the
record store
and hopped on
his vespa. "This
isn't a rescue"
he said. "Because
that wouldn't
be a good, and
this just as bad
as you are.
I almost had a
radio show at
a college station."

"Oh my!" I
said. "That is
awful!" I said,
in shock.

"Right" he said,
avoiding my
gaze.

"So,

This isn't a rescue.
It's an
adventure."

We drove to Baltimore and boarded a boat in the harbor. My former and first love, Edwin, who had left me to become a sailor and had since found a girl who he combined record collections with (so they couldn't break up... how could they be sure they'd get their favorites back?) and the Captain officiated at the marriage of me and my boy, though we did not combine record collections, just in case,

and now I'm at sea because our boat crashed, and this zine is our only way of getting help. So, please,

I don't know where we are but Ceremony is playing that is our help. We could play it until two hours later. She's a story of Ceremonies, more and more. Help, Please?

ter of 2003, before the invasion: "Hard to imagine." It was hard to imagine, he would tell members of Congress, the media and other skeptics, that the war would last as long as they feared, or that it could cost as much as all that, or that it might require so many troops. I worry now that we are once again failing to imagine what we have gotten ourselves into and how much more we will have to pay in blood, treasure, prestige and credibility.

I don't think the Iraq war is over, and I worry that there is more to come. Explain, I suspect.

Louise: Why do you say it? ^{long-term}
it to me. ^{is} ^{best} Louise: Why do you say it? ^{long-term} military presence in
Peggy: I think it's like a frowny face. ^{best} we can hope for. The
Kip: I said it! I said "aw". small numbers of U.S. troops
Louise: Not like "ooh crap" like country's deserts and
"aw, that's so sweet?" ^{is}, but it appears to be better
Peggy: Yeah. A lot of people do it. it — and letting
p Louise: Yeah, I know. Why do I interviewed in Iraq
tv people do it? ^{won't} years agreed. "This is not a cam-
so Alex: It's another way of saying
tra cool. ^{executed} David H. ⁱⁿ
mu "Th" Kip: Yeah, like "I'm feelin' it!" That's ^{we've made a}
willi Blink 182. "Where do we go from ^{with shady}
for n here? I'm feelin' it!" ^{to be} working, but
can't, Alex: That was totally Sum 41. ^{off} it sustain
than t. Kip: It was Blink 182! tors
Sum 41. United States withdraws

draws, he m. "Where do we go?" Many of the Iraqis expect a full-blown Peggy: I'm feelin' it! years. "I don't Alex: It was Sum 41. Yet," one color Kurt: Blink 182! Fail!!! But it's still a mystery. Counter-insurgency expert Cullen worried that the classic conditions for a military coup were developing — a venal political elite divorced from the population, lives inside the Green Zone, while the Iraqi military outside the zone's walls grows both more capable and closer to the people, working with them and trying to address their concerns.

In addition, the American embrace of former insurgents has created many new local power centers in Iraq, but many of the faces of those who run them remain obscure. "We've made a lot of deals with shady guys," Col. Michael Galloucis, the Military Police commander in Baghdad, said in 2007, at the end of his tour.

1 ner in the Iraq war, and perhaps if
2 "Iran," ^{is} a Guilt-free three, in and probably
3 Louise: Guilt-free three, in and probably
4 a former Defense
5 Alex: What?
6 Louise: Guilt-free three, in and probably
7 Peggy: Like guilty pleasures?
8 Louise: No, like, the three people
9 you can sleep with even if you're
10 married or in a relationship, if you
11 ever have the chance, and your
12 spouse or girlfriend or boyfriend
13 can't get mad at you because they
14 were in your guilt-free three, you're
15 allowed. You have to discuss this
16 before you sleep with them, so that
17 if you do, they can't get mad, so
18 you can be like "Guilt free three,
19 come on now. You can't be mad at
20 me. We discussed this."

Alex: ***** Carrie Kennedy and uh . . . and . . . man, the third one's hard. Mostly those two. ^{ea} that less Kurt: You can have a guilt free two. Louise: Yeah, guilt free two's fine. Alex: Yeah, guilt free two. Those are no-doubters ^h ^{ea} this thinking. He belie

Alex: Dudes? ~~ful~~ assessment conflicts
Kurt: It can be animals. ~~i~~ commander
Kip: Okay, Kurt, Alex and Peggy ~~hey'd~~ ^{right} ~~t~~
Kurt: But I'm number one, ^{right} ~~t~~ative
Kip: Yeah, ~~absolutely~~ "ludicrous," said Maj.
*****: Tony Haliday, Shirley ^h
Manson, Liv Tyler.

Kip: Shirley Manson? That's a good use one. ~~treacherous~~ ^{posed during the invasion} use Matt: Uh . . . Ron Howard, Fred Rogers and a cat. st answer came from Louise: Rachel? ^{draft of policy development} Louise: Okay. Luke? ^{with the Iraqis, fo} Luke: Gene Kelly and um . . . Jack ^{to} Lemon, and um . . . uh . . . Calvin ^o Johnson. ^{ed in Iraq is that U.S. soldiers w}

region.
strong
intelligence
affairs.
of influ
factor
e Iraqi

lefense
is, "the
You'll
dicta

raq be
rations
s. The
deeply
of U.S.

g Iraqi
out of
would
fearli
taught
urban
ist re
four
ady to
e — in
l —
h him,
t Iraqi
lo lon
ess. "I
think
hink a
's less
emain,
will be

ie fre
selves.
t with
whole
tent in
uayle,
d dur

at Pe
s this

Miller,
presi
does
sence,
s...
er the

who
bly be
which

Louise: Question for the boys. Does
the reboot button work?

Alex: The what?

Louise: The reboot button.
According to Matt Haynes, there's a
button on boys' lower backs, and if
you ever have any trouble with
them, you can just press it and it
reboots.

Alex: It's a little lower than that.

Louise: Okay, everybody,
your favorite?

Kip: My Favorite!

Louise: Your favorite!

Kip: My Favorite!

Louise: Peggy! My Favorite!

Peggy: My Favorite! I agree,

the Taliban were — an
popular. Most Afghans do
gious zealotry, which the
wouldn't even recognize. A
the Taliban regime in 2001,
the war started, served as
the group's weak foundatio

Yet the insurgency, which
Afghanistan and Pakistan, o
the Taliban. It is fractured
en groups, including the F
Pashtun militant Jalaluddi
K. Gulbuddin Hekmaty

— Nafaz-e-Shariat-e-M
and many others. A bevy of
organizations, militia for
districts in the provin

lue: But why are we trying to say? orga
What are we trying to say? nizations, militia for
districts in the provin

Luke: Because it's way fun! sitions, militia for
Kip: Yeah! It's more fun than sittings, milita for
Luke: In my apartment in my underweare

Despite Talk, T

AFGHANISTAN, From Page B1

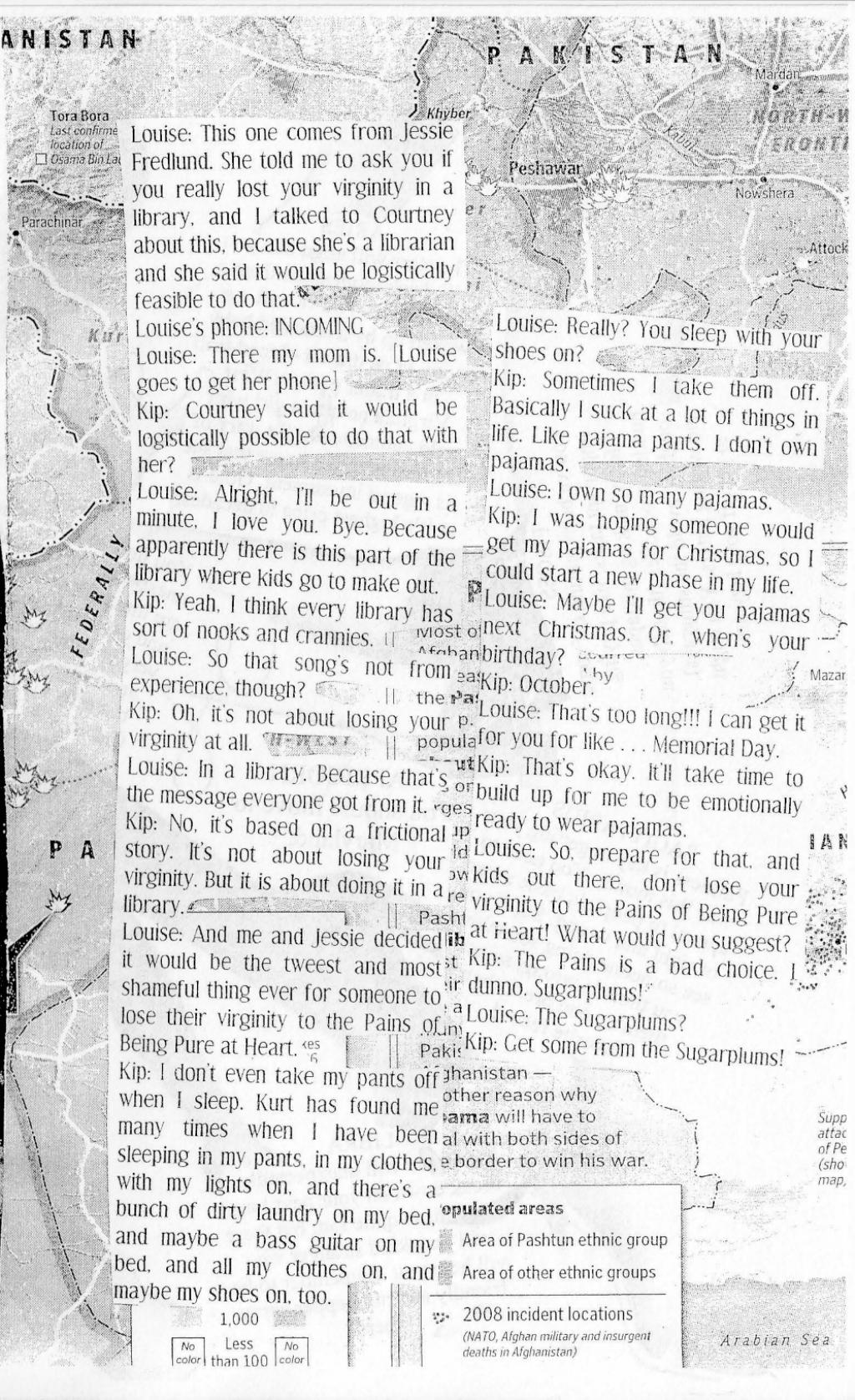
cover article branded "Obama's Viet
nam," arguing "I get those
by a dar by do I get those
goddamn boys who said they would been infiltrated
join a band with me to actually have repeatedly vanc
band practice?" in December 2008, the
Alex: The reboot button's in 72 percent
last year, I found that the 24 percent a year
actual territory.

Reporting on A Louise: Are we stagnated? Are we
ality. I got mine las Louise: Have we ever? se
province in the sou, people. Have we ever? se
stan. Though the Tal relevant anymore? se
districts in the provin Kip: Were we ever? se
vate. "We hate them," or Alex: Do we need to be? se
Qalat told me. "And do Louise: But why are we doing this? se
sion of Isl label that just ne What are we trying to say? orga
 Louise: favorite record label that just ne What are we trying to say? orga
still exists and why... se

Kip: Skipping Stone, duh! Is. Just last week, Kip: Yeah! It's more fun than sittings, milita for
Matt: Series Two! that only 4 percent of A in my apartment in my underweare

everyone laughs! government. W Matt: That's not actually true. Luke: Because it's way fun! sittings, milita for
Kip: I dunno. What's Your Rupture? I asked playing Nintendo. Kip: Once you beat Super Mario, how
feel like saying Slumberland... is ty, 58 Matt: That's not actually true. Luke: Because it's way fun! sittings, milita for
cheating. Kip: In additio, Kip: Once you beat Super Mario, how
forces overthrew the Taliban t time, like, you're like "Maybe I ha
amid Karzai's gove

Luke: Atomic Beat! cult to see why. The Taliban subscribe
to a radical interpretation of Sunni Islam
grounded in Deobandism, a school of thought
emanating from the Dar ul-Ulum madrassa established in Deoband, India, in 1867. The objective of
senior Taliban leaders is to establish an extreme
version of sharia in T



Louise: This one comes from Jessie Fredlund. She told me to ask you if you really lost your virginity in a library, and I talked to Courtney about this, because she's a librarian and she said it would be logically feasible to do that.

Louise's phone: INCOMING

Louise: There my mom is. [Louise goes to get her phone]

Kip: Courtney said it would be logically possible to do that with her?

Louise: Alright, I'll be out in a minute, I love you. Bye. Because apparently there is this part of the library where kids go to make out.

Kip: Yeah, I think every library has sort of nooks and crannies.

Louise: So that song's not from my experience, though?

Kip: Oh, it's not about losing your virginity at all.

Louise: In a library. Because that's the message everyone got from it.

Kip: No, it's based on a frictional story. It's not about losing your virginity. But it is about doing it in a library.

Louise: And me and Jessie decided it would be the tweest and most shameful thing ever for someone to lose their virginity to the Pains of Being Pure at Heart.

Being Pure at Heart.

Kip: I don't even take my pants off when I sleep. Kurt has found me

many times when I have been sleeping in my pants, in my clothes, with my lights on, and there's a bunch of dirty laundry on my bed, and maybe a bass guitar on my bed, and all my clothes on, and maybe my shoes on, too.

Louise: Really? You sleep with your shoes on?

Kip: Sometimes I take them off. Basically I suck at a lot of things in life. Like pajama pants. I don't own pajamas.

Louise: I own so many pajamas.

Kip: I was hoping someone would get my pajamas for Christmas, so I could start a new phase in my life.

Louise: Maybe I'll get you pajamas next Christmas. Or, when's your birthday?

Kip: October.

Louise: That's too long!!! I can get it for you for like... Memorial Day.

Kip: That's okay. It'll take time to build up for me to be emotionally ready to wear pajamas.

Louise: So, prepare for that, and kids out there, don't lose your virginity to the Pains of Being Pure at Heart! What would you suggest?

Kip: The Pains is a bad choice. I dunno. Sugarplums!

Louise: The Sugarplums?

Kip: Get some from the Sugarplums!

Pakistan — other reason why India will have to border to win his war.

Populated areas

Area of Pashtun ethnic group

Area of other ethnic groups



ARIES

The stars will align and you will drink moonshine from a mason jar. You're will be woken up by a retarded baby crying in its drawer-turned-crib in a trailer park in West Virginia next to a girl with gold canine teeth.

Be wary of her husband, but know that she is a good investment. Gold is at its highest price in decades.

PISCES

You've been putting off some important tasks, like pitying fools, making mixtapes, hunting crocodiles (though you ought to avoid the stingrays, to get off your lazy ass).

SAGITTARIUS

Fairness is key to getting your way this month. You need to appeal to people's basic sense of right and wrong. So, if you see someone doing something you think is wrong, smack them up and break their favorite record.

CAPRICORN

You should move to Maryland.

LIBRA

Your car will unexpectedly break down on your next long trip. This is quite sad, but there will be a kind stranger who will help you. Remember to be friendly and not pepper spray them!

VIRGO

You find yourself in new and unexpected circumstances and are inexperienced in these new and exciting matters. It seems very exciting, but if you end up to Morrissey giving butterfly kisses, watch out for Calvin, too. But Tali's

ses suck

AQUARIUS

You should keep a positive mindset, although your current situation may seem bleak. Just take that Field Mice record off your turntable, and the world will immediately seem happier. I highly recommend the new Celestial (out on Music is My Girlfriend/ Lavender)

LEO

If you work at it, you can escape from your cage and will be presented with a number of new options, however, your world will have significantly changed and you should learn to adapt. Try new foods, but if he removes the thorn, spare him later.

to not should in your around because punch try your life, but assault them in the very best chance

TAURUS

Your business venture will soon come to an end, however, if you play Congress right, you can get a few billion and live comfortably. Try to scare people into thinking that their entire lives will collapse if they don't give you more money. An interesting deal will come your way if you keep your mind open and your morals flexible.

CANCER

Using the pads of your fingers, press firmly on the breast, checking the entire breast and armpit area. Move around the breast in a circular, up-and-down, or wedge pattern. Remember to use the same method every month. Check both breasts.

GEMINI

Your band will really take off in the next couple of months.

SERIOUSLY THOUGH GUYS, WE NEED TO PRACTICE. CALL ME. I AM PROBABLY FREE ALL WEEK

Claudia Gonson

What's it like being in the same band for so long?

It's one of those questions that's hard to answer, since one can't really know what it's like to be oneself, as opposed to anyone else. The band, as a 4 (now 5) piece, has been together for years and years, but we don't tour very often. Sometimes we don't feel like we're "in the band" for years at a time. We just have our regular lives, and regroup when there's a new album. By contrast, Stephin and I have worked together steadily as manager and artist for two decades. We speak daily, organizing what we need to do to keep all his various bands and projects going. Personally, I think it's good for an artist to have a slow burn rather than a crazy few years trying to make it big. Better on the nerves.

I read somewhere

(probably wikipedia) that you manage all the commercial-doing stuff, and do you get a lot of requests? How do you handle that?

You may have been reading in the news about how the music industry is in a state of disarray, due to file sharing and Myspace, and all sorts of ways that people get music for free. Bands are finding it harder to make money from selling records, and are turning to other ways to earn a living. The two most popular ways are from touring, and by placing music into ads and other media. Since my band plays live so infrequently, Stephin and I have concentrated a lot over the last 5-10 years on earning him money as a composer. He is interested in composing more for films. Ad work is great because it pays really well.

How has the live show changed from the beginning now that you're playing extremely large venues?

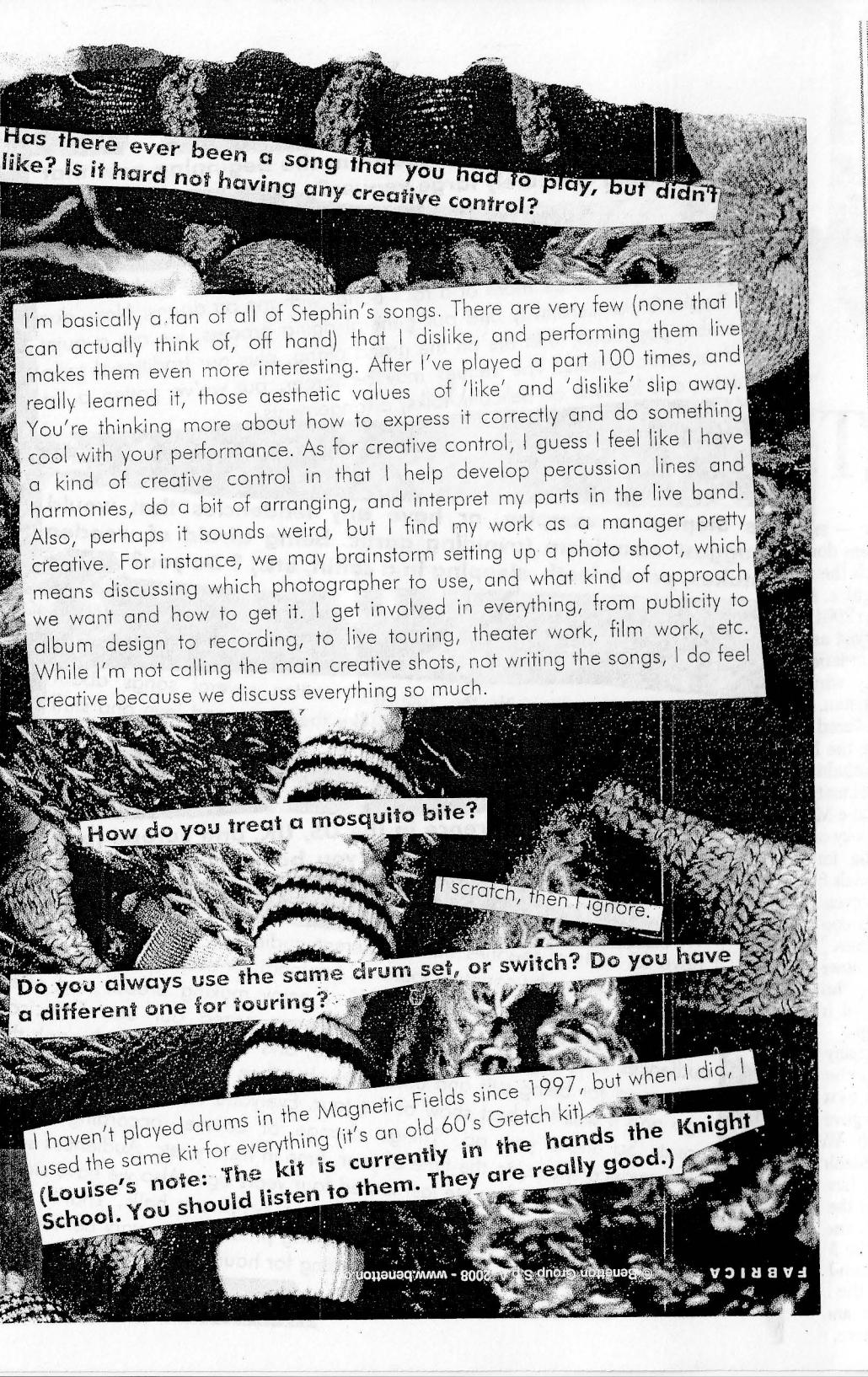
It's funny, but it's the opposite of what you'd think. We're not sounding bigger. We used to be more of a rock band, with me on drums. Now, due to Stephin's ear sensitivity and our general aging process, we are a quiet chamber-pop band, with me on the grand piano, plus our traditional cello quieter, and focused on delicate, folksy arrangements.

Is Stephin a vampire, or have any tendencies that would suggest vampirism (avoiding garlic, being afraid of wooden stakes, pointy teeth, sleeping in a coffin, etc.) ? Do you?

Does this have to do with the fact he's written several songs about vampires? He's also into other themes... like the moon and love and stuff like that. Doesn't mean he's secretly a moon. Stephin does enjoy a good vampire movie, like the rest of us.

Have you noticed a difference in the US, UK, and Europe (and wherever else you toured) in how you book things and how people act at shows?

I have all sorts of theories about different audiences, not so much US vs. Europe, but more by country (Spain vs. England), or even by region (DC vs. Boston, or Manchester vs. Edinburgh). I enjoy making broad, and often inaccurate generalizations. We have always prized our San Francisco audiences for being so warm and attuned, and we used to pooh-pooh the DC crowd for being stiff and unreactive, but then we played in DC 3 days ago and it was the best show of the tour. Everyone was really friendly and great. So there you go. Things change of course, according to the performance space, to the time of year, time in history, etc. Audiences seem different now from when we last toured four years ago. Also we have started playing in really elegant theaters, such as symphony halls. That'll make people act quiet and subdued. The booking process does vary between the US and Europe, but honestly I'd be writing for hours to explain it, and you'd fall asleep with boredom.



Has there ever been a song that you had to play, but didn't like? Is it hard not having any creative control?

I'm basically a fan of all of Stephin's songs. There are very few (none that I can actually think of, off hand) that I dislike, and performing them live makes them even more interesting. After I've played a part 100 times, and really learned it, those aesthetic values of 'like' and 'dislike' slip away. You're thinking more about how to express it correctly and do something cool with your performance. As for creative control, I guess I feel like I have a kind of creative control in that I help develop percussion lines and harmonies, do a bit of arranging, and interpret my parts in the live band. Also, perhaps it sounds weird, but I find my work as a manager pretty creative. For instance, we may brainstorm setting up a photo shoot, which means discussing which photographer to use, and what kind of approach we want and how to get it. I get involved in everything, from publicity to album design to recording, to live touring, theater work, film work, etc. While I'm not calling the main creative shots, not writing the songs, I do feel creative because we discuss everything so much.

How do you treat a mosquito bite?

I scratch, then I ignore.

Do you always use the same drum set, or switch? Do you have a different one for touring?

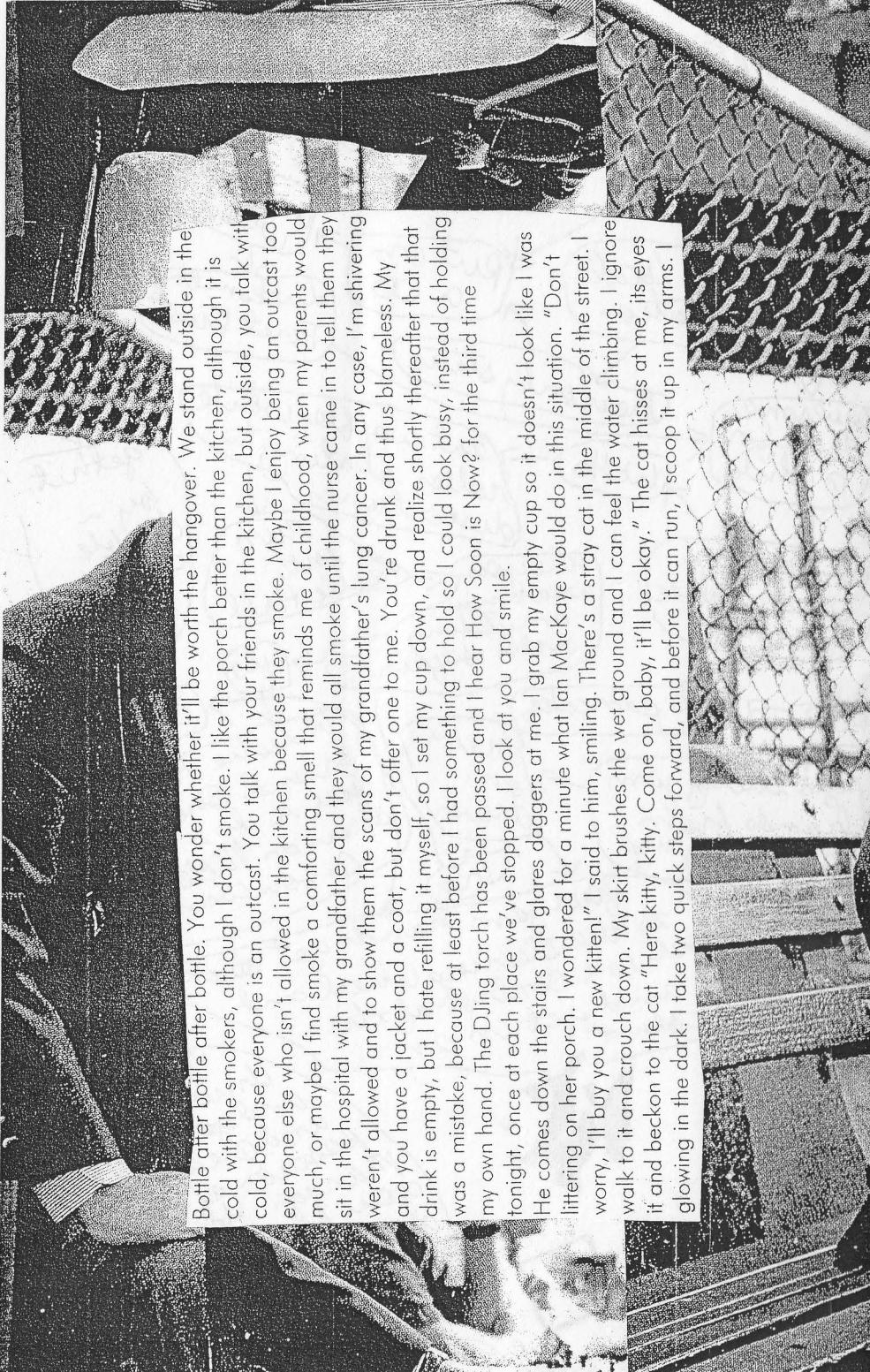
I haven't played drums in the Magnetic Fields since 1997, but when I did, I used the same kit for everything (it's an old 60's Gretch kit).

(Louise's note: The kit is currently in the hands the Knight School. You should listen to them. They are really good.)

Indiepop Roadtrip Flowchart



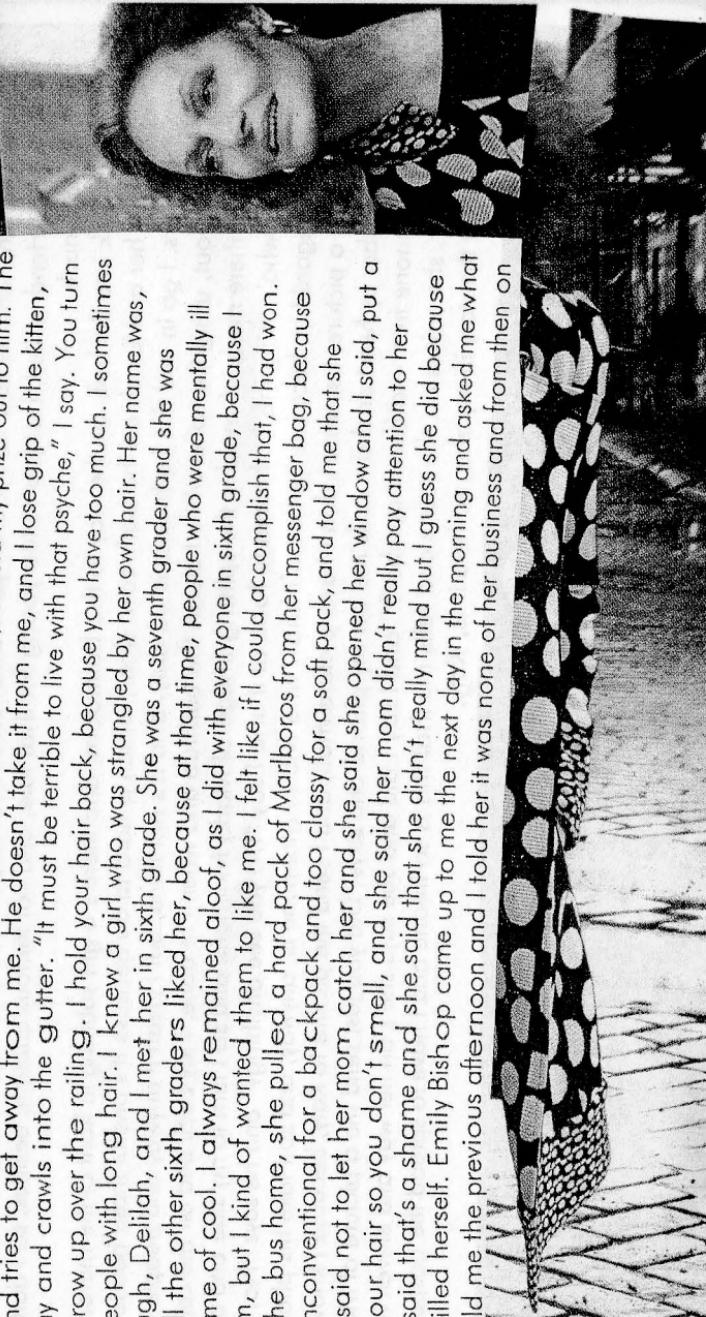
this zone is dedicated to Kaye and Sarah M.

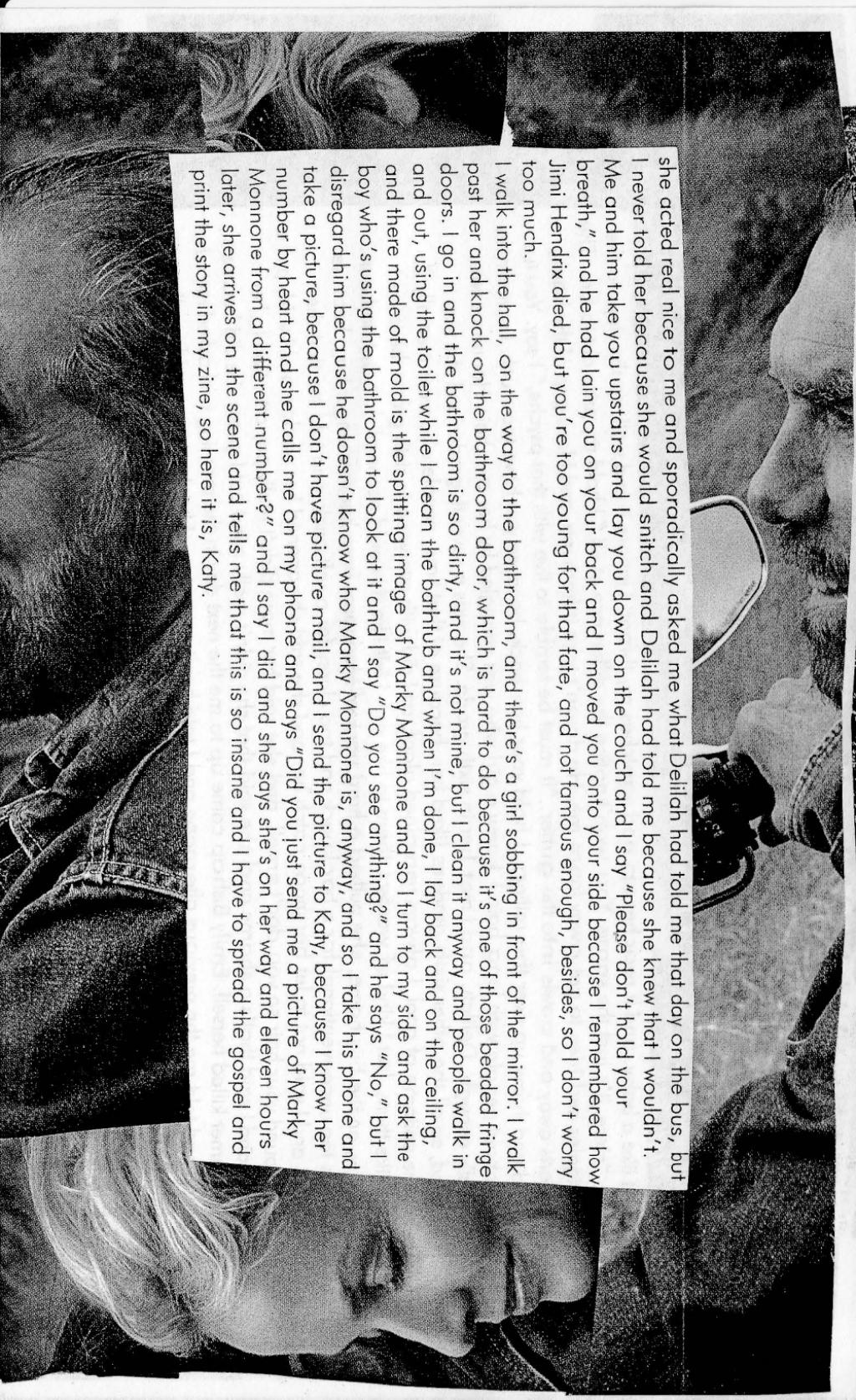


Bottle after bottle after bottle. You wonder whether it'll be worth the hangover. We stand outside in the cold with the smokers, although I don't smoke. I like the porch better than the kitchen, although it is cold, because everyone is an outcast. You talk with your friends in the kitchen, but outside, you talk with everyone else who isn't allowed in the kitchen because they smoke. Maybe I enjoy being an outcast too much, or maybe I find smoke a comforting smell that reminds me of childhood, when my parents would sit in the hospital with my grandfather and they would all smoke until the nurse came in to tell them they weren't allowed and to show them the scans of my grandfather's lung cancer. In any case, I'm shivering and you have a jacket and a coat, but don't offer one to me. You're drunk and thus blameless. My drink is empty, but I hate refilling it myself, so I set my cup down, and realize shortly thereafter that that was a mistake, because at least before I had something to hold so I could look busy, instead of holding my own hand. The DJing torch has been passed and I hear How Soon is Now? for the third time tonight, once at each place we've stopped. I look at you and smile.

He comes down the stairs and glares daggers at me. I grab my empty cup so it doesn't look like I was littering on her porch. I wondered for a minute what Ian MacKaye would do in this situation. "Don't worry, I'll buy you a new kitten!" I said to him, smiling. There's a stray cat in the middle of the street. I walk to it and crouch down. My skirt brushes the wet ground and I can feel the water climbing. I ignore it and beckon to the cat "Here kitty, kitty. Come on, baby, it'll be okay." The cat hisses at me, its eyes glowing in the dark. I take two quick steps forward, and before it can run, I scoop it up in my arms. I

hold it like a baby, and it reaches up and scratches my throat. I ignore it and walk up the steps to the porch. "Here. It's just the same. You won't notice the difference at all," I hold my prize out to him. The cat wriggles and tries to get away from me. He doesn't take it from me, and I lose grip of the kitten, who darts away and crawls into the gutter. "It must be terrible to live with that psyche," I say. You turn around and throw up over the railing. I hold your hair back, because you have too much. I sometimes worry about people with long hair. I knew a girl who was strangled by her own hair. Her name was, ironically enough, Delilah, and I met her in sixth grade. She was a seventh grader and she was troubled, so all the other sixth graders liked her, because at that time, people who were mentally ill were the epitome of cool. I always remained aloof, as I did with everyone in sixth grade, because I didn't like them, but I kind of wanted them to like me. I felt like if I could accomplish that, I had won. One day, on the bus home, she pulled a hard pack of Marlboros from her messenger bag, because she was too unconventional for a backpack and too classy for a soft pack, and told me that she smoked and I said not to let her mom catch her and she said she opened her window and I said, put a scarf around your hair so you don't smell, and she said her mom didn't really pay attention to her anyway and I said that's a shame and she said that she didn't really mind but I guess she did because that summer killed herself. Emily Bishop came up to me the next day in the morning and asked me what Delilah had told me the previous afternoon and I told her it was none of her business and from then on





she acted real nice to me and sporadically asked me what Delilah had told me that day on the bus, but I never told her because she would snitch and Delilah had told me because she knew that I wouldn't. Me and him take you upstairs and lay you down on the couch and I say "please don't hold your breath," and he had lain you on your back and I moved you onto your side because I remembered how Jimi Hendrix died, but you're too young for that fate, and not famous enough, besides, so I don't worry too much.

I walk into the hall, on the way to the bathroom, and there's a girl sobbing in front of the mirror. I walk past her and knock on the bathroom door, which is hard to do because it's one of those beaded fringe doors. I go in and the bathroom is so dirty, and it's not mine, but I clean it anyway and people walk in and out, using the toilet while I clean the bathtub and when I'm done, I lay back and on the ceiling, and there made of mold is the spitting image of Marky Monnone and so I turn to my side and ask the boy who's using the bathroom to look at it and I say "Do you see anything?" and he says "No," but I disregard him because he doesn't know who Marky Monnone is, anyway, and so I take his phone and take a picture, because I don't have picture mail, and I send the picture to Katy, because I know her number by heart and she calls me on my phone and says "Did you just send me a picture of Marky Monnone from a different number?" and I say I did and she says she's on her way and eleven hours later, she arrives on the scene and tells me that this is so insane and I have to spread the gospel and print the story in my zine, so here it is, Katy.

Situations in which it
would be inappropriate
to listen to the Great Dynamos



get a copy of the
average geniusEP at
average-mailorder.de
uniserv online at
a listen online at
myspace.com/greatdynamos
or myspace.com/greatdynamos
It's pretty OK!



Americans never REALLY believe we've failed...that we even can fail. We all COULD have been

an astronaut.

a race car driver,

We all have talent. Even when we don't, we do. A talent for self-deception, which is really the easiest kind. When we make a self-deprecating comment, we're really just expecting someone to assure us we're wrong and we're really marvelous.

a tugboat captain,

A ROCK STAR

a porn star,

the President

They don't know what they're talking about.

Hey!

I'm Louise Fucking Brooks and I can do what I want.

We believe we can and so we do.

It never really mattered who could and who couldn't, it just mattered who made people believe.

All you need is love. But you don't even really need that. All you need is hope. You just need to think that you could be in love, that the very best person on earth could walk through that door right now and it would all work out.

I believe in America.

I believe in love.

The moment you stop believing that is the moment you take the pills.